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UNCLAS ABUJA 003071

SIPDIS

FOR EB/IP, AF/W AND PLEASE PASS TO FTC FOR RDAMTOFT

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ANTI-TRUST BILL WENDING WAY THROUGH
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: FTC HELP REQUESTED

REF: STATE 200906

[1](#)1. The following answers are cued to questions in paragraph three of reftel.

a. The September conference that Basil Udotai referred to in his communication with the FTC was the first of four seminars on competition policy that the Executive and Legislative branches of the Nigerian Government are holding. Udotai is a lawyer who is helping to organize the conference in affiliation with the Attorney General's office. Also involved are individuals in the Presidency, Vice President's office and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

b. Dr. Abdul Muyassir Ladan is unknown to House of Representatives Privatization Committee Chair Chidi Duru. Our contacts at the Ministry of Commerce were unavailable to confirm his bona fides. We will provide more information if it becomes available.

c. Doyin Oyetunde and the Law Union are also organizers of the four seminars mentioned in (a) above. The second seminar is scheduled for December 5-6 in Lagos.

[1](#)2. We have learned that the Privatization Committee of the House of Representatives is "gazetting" draft anti-trust legislation and expects to have the first reading of the Bill before Christmas adjournment. A vote presumably would come around mid-2002. The Mission encourages whatever support the FTC can lend to the development and implementation of a competition policy in Nigeria. Chidi Duru has told us that the GON would value FTC participation in the seminar series (the last two will be in Abuja in February and May of 2002) and FTC advice on implementing the new legislation when it becomes law.

3, Embassy Abuja contact is Economic Officer Tim Smith, 234-9-670-0375, (H) 234-9-413-5698 and e-mail TFSmith52@aol.com.

Jeter